

A M E R I C A N  
HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CURIOSITIES;

CONSISTING OF

FAC-SIMILES OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE EVENTS  
OF THE REVOLUTION,  
&c. &c.

WITH A VARIETY OF

RELIQUES, ANTIQUITIES,

AND

MODERN AUTOGRAPHS.

COLLECTED AND EDITED

BY

JOHN JAY SMITH,  
MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AND

JOHN F. WATSON,  
ANNALIST OF PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK.

ASSISTED BY AN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ANTIQUARIANS.

SIXTH EDITION; WITH IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS.

NEW YORK:  
G. P. PUTNAM.  
1861.

# **AMERICAN HISTORICAL CURIOSITIES, Part 4.**

The Project Gutenberg EBook of American Historical and Literary  
Curiosities, Part 4., by John Jay Smith and John F. Watson

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# **AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CURIOSITIES**

**By John Jay Smith and John F. Watson**

## Part 4.

# P R E F A C E

## TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

### FIRST SERIES.

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THE past has a charm for Americans, as well as for the inhabitants of countries whose history extends far into the shadowy and unknown; *our* early and romantic past has the merit of being known and truly related; everything which adds to these truths is sought for with avidity by the curious and intelligent inquirer. We have now many autograph collectors, who may be viewed in the light of preservers of documents which would otherwise perish or be dispersed; to few, comparatively, are their treasures revealed. It was suggested, therefore, that a few of the most rare and curious "Historical and Literary Curiosities" in the possession of individuals, should be grouped for the amusement and instruction of the present and of future generations, who may well know from printed accounts *what* things were done, but who can also thus learn *how* they were done.

Nearly all the articles in the present collection have been taken by competent artists from the originals of which they purport to be fac-similes. Considerable labor and trouble have been expended in collecting together the varied materials here presented; but it has been with the Editors a "labor of love," rewarded by the pleasure of the pursuit.

The work having been received with extraordinary favor by the public, and a fifth edition being called for, some additions and alterations have been made, which will create increased interest in the volume.

J. JAY SMITH,  
JOHN F. WATSON.

\* \* Fully to understand the work, it is necessary, in turning over the pages, to have constant reference to the Table of Contents, where will be found many explanations for which space could not be found on the plates.

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### NOTE TO THE SIXTH EDITION.

Notwithstanding the announcement in the second series of this work that the first would not be reprinted, the public has demanded a sixth edition, which has been entirely redrawn, and many highly interesting additions have been made.

PHILADELPHIA, October, 1860.





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The subscribers agree to pay the sums annexed to their respective Names, and an equal quota of any further expence which may be incurred in the promotion and support of a dancing assembly to be held in Morristown this present Winter 1780 — Subscription Monies to be paid into the hands of a Treasurer, here — after to be appointed

G. Wapleson paid

Nath Greene 400 dollars

Knox 400 ditto paid

Pontiacus 400 Dollars paid

Welkimon 400 Do

Clement Noble. 400 D <sup>r</sup>	R. Claiborne p <sup>d</sup> 400 dollars
Robt Hannon <sup>paid</sup> 400	Leo Huling <sup>paid</sup> 400 Dollars
R. H. Meade <sup>paid</sup> 400	Les <sup>r</sup> Wagon <sup>paid</sup> 400 ditto
James W. Keure <sup>paid</sup> 400	+ Alva Worthington <sup>paid</sup> 400 Dollars
Alex Hamilton <sup>paid</sup> 400	Benjamin Brown -- 400 Dollars
Saml. Helghman <sup>paid</sup> 400	Major Stagg <sup>paid</sup> 400 Dollars
C. Gibbs -- <sup>paid</sup> 400 dollar	James Thompson <sup>paid</sup> 400 D <sup>r</sup>
John Pious Fund <sup>paid</sup> 400 do	ELIZABETH <sup>paid</sup> 400 D <sup>r</sup>
The Baron de Kall <sup>paid</sup> 400 Dollars	Col <sup>r</sup> Thomas Proctor <sup>paid</sup> 400 D <sup>r</sup>
John Moylan ..... 400 D <sup>r</sup>	J. D. Cutting <sup>paid</sup>
L. Sh. Dufur <sup>paid</sup> 400 D <sup>r</sup>	
Geo Olney <sup>paid</sup> 400 Dollars	Edw. Hand <sup>paid</sup>
Ja <sup>s</sup> Abel <sup>paid</sup> 400 Dollars	
Robt. Lishone <sup>paid</sup> 400 Dollars	+ William Little <sup>paid</sup> 400
John Cochran <sup>paid</sup> 400 Dollars	Robt. Woolf <sup>paid</sup> 400 D <sup>r</sup>
Geo. Dacre <sup>paid</sup> 400 D <sup>r</sup>	
J. Burnet <sup>paid</sup> 400 Dollars	

*Enlarge*



I do hereby certify that John Paul Jones was duly  
commissioned and appointed to command the armed  
~~commissioned~~ Sloop called the Providence and that  
this Sloop is now employed in the service of the thirteen  
United States of North America Witness my Hand  
October 29<sup>th</sup> 1776

John Hancock Presid

Philadelphia June 4<sup>th</sup> 1783

Gentlemen,

The bearer John Barry Esq. Captain in the  
Continental Navy commanding the Frigate  
Alliance being destined for the Texel, I beg  
leave to introduce him as a friend of mine  
to the honor of your acquaintance. As —  
Captain Barry is an entire stranger in Holland  
any civilities you may show him will be  
more oblige

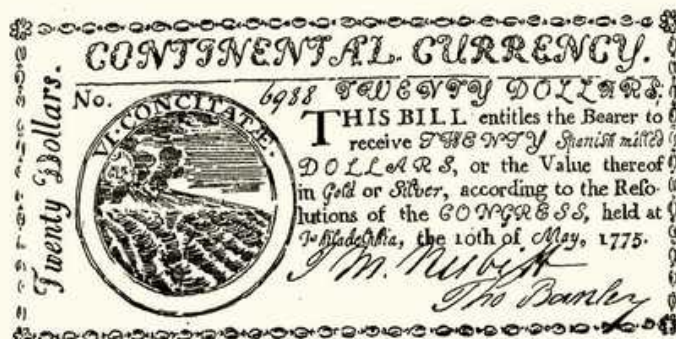
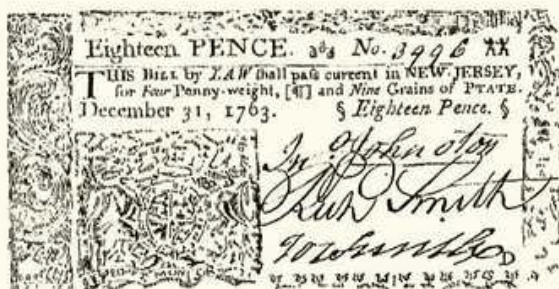
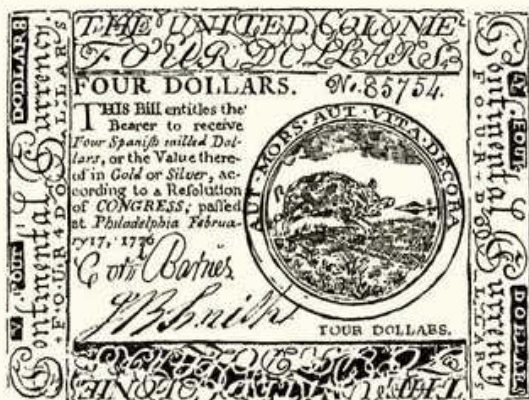
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient  
and most humble servant

GW JONES

Messieurs Deneufville & fils  
à Amsterdam.

*Enlarge*



*Enlarge*





*Captain Cutheart 1778.  
afterwards Earl Cutheart.*



*Sir John Wrottesley Bt.  
1778*



*Mr. Phineas Bond.  
afterwards British Consul.*



*Capt. Batwell*



*Major Andoe*

PROFILES  
cut by Major André  
for  
Miss Rebecca Redman.  
1778.



Written by Major André.

A German Lur.

Return enraptured Hours,  
 When Delia's heart was mine,  
 When she, with wreaths of flowers,  
 My temples would entwine.  
 When jealousy nor - love,  
 Corred in my breast,  
 But visions, light as air,  
 Presided o'er my rest—  
 Now tightly round my bed  
 No airy visions play;  
 No flowers to crown my head.  
 Each vernal Holiday—  
 For far from those sad plains  
 My lovely Delia flies,  
 And rack'd with jealous pains,  
 Her wretched lover dies—

German Lur - Words compos'd  
 by Major André at the request of  
 Miss Becky Redman - Jan 2 1777 -



*Enlarge*

The Favor of your meeting the Subscribers  
of to the Meschianza at Knight's Wharf  
near Pooles Bridge to Morrow at half past  
Three, is desired  
Sunday 17th May  
Mys - Craig -  
Ry Calder  
Knight

Enlarge



(From the Ladies' Magazine of August, 1792.)

WRITTEN BY MAJOR ANDRIÉ.

## PARTICULARS OF THE MISCHIANZA,

EXHIBITED IN AMERICA AT THE DEPARTURE OF GENERAL HOWE—IN A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER  
AT PHILADELPHIA TO HIS CORRESPONDENT IN LONDON.

*Philadelphia, May 23, 1778.*

FOR the first time in my life I write to you with unwillingness. The ship that carries home Sir William Howe will convey this letter to you; and not even the pleasure of conversing with my friend can secure me from the general dejection I see around me, or remove the share I must take in the universal regret and disappointment which his approaching departure hath spread throughout the army. We see him taken from us at a time when we most stand in need of so skilful and popular a commander; when the experience of three years, and the knowledge he hath acquired of the country and people, have added to the confidence we always placed in his conduct and abilities. You know he was ever a favorite with the military; but the affection and attachment which all ranks of officers in this army bear him can only be known by those who have at this time seen them in their effects. I do not believe there is upon record an instance of a commander-in-chief having so universally endeared himself to those under his command; or of one who received such signal and flattering proofs of their love. That our sentiments might be the more universally and unequivocally known, it was resolved amongst us, that we should give him as splendid an entertainment as the shortness of the time, and our present situation, would allow us. For the expenses, the whole army would have most cheerfully contributed; but it was requisite to draw the line somewhere, and twenty-two field-officers joined in a subscription adequate to the plan they meant to adopt. I know your curiosity will be raised on this occasion; I shall therefore give you as particular an account of our *Mischianza* as I have been able to collect. From the name you will perceive that it was made up of a variety of entertainments. Four of the gentlemen subscribers were appointed managers—Sir John Wrottesly, Col. O'Hara, Major Gardiner, and Montresor, the chief engineer. On the tickets of admission, which they gave out for Monday the 18th, was engraved in a shield, a view of the sea, with the setting sun, and on a wreath, the words *Luceo discedens, aucto splendore resurgam*. At the top was the general's crest, with *vive vale!* All round the shield ran a vignette, and various military trophies filled up the ground. A grand regatta began the entertainment. It consisted of three divisions. In the first was the Ferret galley, having on board several general officers, and a number of ladies. In the centre was the Hussar galley, with Sir William and Lord Howe, Sir Henry Clinton, the officers of their suite, and some ladies. The Cornwallis galley brought up the rear, having on board General Knyphausen and his suite, three British generals, and a party of ladies. On each quarter of these galleys, and forming their division, were five flat boats, lined with green cloth, and with ladies and gentlemen. In front of the whole were three flat boats, with a band of music in each—six barges rowed about each flank, to keep off the swarm of boats that covered the river from side to side. The galleys were dressed out in a variety of colors and streamers, and in each flat boat was displayed the flag of its own division. In the stream opposite the centre of the city,



## PARTICULARS OF THE MISCHIANZA.

the Fanny armed ship, magnificently decorated, was placed at anchor, and at some distance ahead lay his majesty's ship Roebuck, with the admiral's flag hoisted at the fore-topmast head. The transport ship, extending in a line the whole length of the town, appeared with colors flying, and crowded with spectators, as were also the openings of the several wharves on shore, exhibiting the most picturesque and enlivening scene the eye could desire. The rendezvous was at Knight's wharf, at the northern extremity of the city. By half after four the whole company was embarked, and the signal being made by the Vigilant's manning ship, the three divisions rowing slowly down, preserving their proper intervals, and keeping time to the music that led the fleet. Arrived between the Fanny and the market wharf, a signal was made from one of the boats ahead, and the whole lay upon their oars, while the music played *God save the king*, and three cheers given from the vessels were returned from the multitude on shore. By this time the flood-tide became too rapid for the galleys to advance; they were therefore quitted, and the company disposed of in different barges. This alteration broke in upon the order of procession, but was necessary to give sufficient time for displaying the entertainment that was prepared on shore. The landing place was at the old fort, a little to the southward of the town, fronting the building prepared for the reception of the company, about four hundred yards from the water by a gentle ascent. As soon as the general's barge was seen to push from the shore, a salute of seventeen guns was fired from the Roebuck, and, after some interval, by the same number from the Vigilant. The company, as they disembarked, arranged themselves into a line of procession, and advanced through an avenue formed by two files of grenadiers, and a line of lighthorse supporting each file. This avenue led to a square lawn of one hundred and fifty yards on each side, lined with troops and properly prepared for the exhibition of a tilt and tournament, according to the customs and ordinances of ancient chivalry. We proceeded through the centre of the square. The music, consisting of all the bands of the army, moved in front. The managers, with favors of blue and white ribands in their breasts, followed next in order. The general, admiral, and the rest of the company proceeded promiscuously.

In front appeared the building, bounding the view through a vista formed by two triumphal arches, erected at proper intervals in a line with the landing place. Two pavilions, with rows of benches, rising one above the other, and serving as the advanced wings of the first triumphal arch, received the ladies, while the gentlemen arranged themselves in convenient order on each side. On the front seat of each pavilion were placed seven of the principal young ladies of the country, dressed in Turkish habits, and wearing in their turbans the favors with which they meant to reward the several knights who were to contend in their honor. These arrangements were scarce made when the sound of trumpets was heard at a distance; and a band of knights, dressed in ancient habits of white and red silk, and mounted on gray horses, richly caparisoned in trappings of the same colors, entered the lists, attended by their esquires on foot, in suitable apparel, in the following order:—four trumpeters, properly habited, their trumpets decorated with small pendent banners—a herald in his robe of ceremony; on his tunic was the device of his band, two roses intertwined, with the motto, *We droop when separated*.

Lord Cathcart, superbly mounted on a managed horse, appeared as chief of these knights; two young black slaves, with sashes and drawers of blue and white silk, wearing large silver clasps round their necks and arms, their breasts and shoulders bare, held his stirrups. On his right hand walked Capt. Hazard, and on his left Capt. Brownlow, his two esquires, one bearing his lance, the other his shield.

His device was Cupid riding on a lion, the motto, *Surmounted by Love*. His lordship appeared in honor of Miss Auchmuty.

Then came in order the knights of his band, each attended by his squire, bearing his lance and shield.

1st Knight, Hon. Capt. Cathcart, in honor of Miss N. White.—Squire, Capt. Peters. Device, a Heart and Sword; motto *Love and Honor*.





## PARTICULARS OF THE MISCHIANZA.

6th Knight, Brigade-Major Tarlton, in honor of Miss W. Smith.—Squire, Ensign Heart. Device, a Light Dragoon; motto, *Swift, Vigilant, and Bold*.

After they had rode round the lists, and made their obeisance to the ladies, they drew up fronting the White Knights; and the chief of these having thrown down his gauntlet, the chief of the Black Knights directed his esquire to take it up. The knights then received their lances from their esquires, fixed their shields on their left arms, and making a general salute to each other, by a very graceful movement of their lances, turned round to take their career, and encountering in full gallop, shivered their spears. In the second and third encounter they discharged their pistols. In the fourth they fought with their swords. At length the two chiefs, spurring forward into the centre, engaged furiously in single combat, till the marshal of the field (Major Gwyne) rushed in between the chiefs, and declared that the Fair Damsels of the Blended Rose and Burning Mountain were perfectly satisfied with the proofs of love, and the signal feats of valor, given by their respective knights; and commanded them, as they prized the future favors of their mistresses, that they would instantly desist from further combat. Obedience being paid by the chiefs to this order, they joined their respective bands. The White Knights and their attendants filed off to the left, the Black Knights to the right; and, after passing each other at the lower side of the quadrangle, moved up alternately, till they approached the pavilions of the ladies, when they gave a general salute.

A passage being now opened between the two pavilions, the knights, preceded by their squires and the bands of music, rode through the first triumphal arch, and arranged themselves to the right and left. This arch was erected in honor of Lord Howe. It presented two fronts, in the Tuscan order; the pediment was adorned with various naval trophies, and at top was the figure of Neptune, with a trident in his right hand. In a niche, on each side, stood a sailor with a drawn cutlass. Three plumes of feathers were placed on the summit of each wing, and in the entablature was this inscription: *Laus illi debetur, et alma gratia major*. The interval between the two arches was an avenue three hundred feet long, and thirty-four broad. It was lined on each side with a file of troops; and the colors of all the army, planted at proper distances, had a beautiful effect in diversifying the scene. Between these colors the knights and squires took their stations. The bands continued to play several pieces of martial music. The company moved forward in procession, with the ladies in the Turkish habits in front; as these passed, they were saluted by their knights, who then dismounted and joined them; and in this order we were all conducted into a garden that fronted the house, through the second triumphal arch, dedicated to the general. This arch was also built in the Tuscan order. On the interior part of the pediment was painted a plume of feathers, and various military trophies. At top stood the figure of Fame, and in the entablature this device,—*I, bone, quo virtus tua te vocet; I pede fausto*. On the right hand pillar was placed a bomb-shell, and on the left a flaming heart. The front next the house was adorned with preparations for a fire-work. From the garden we ascended a flight of steps covered with carpets, which led into a spacious hall; the panels, painted in imitation of Sienna marble, enclosing festoons of white marble: the surbase, and all below, was black. In this hall, and in the adjoining apartments, were prepared tea, lemonade, and other cooling liquors, to which the company seated themselves; during which time the knights came in, and on the knee received their favors from their respective ladies. One of these rooms was afterwards appropriated for the use of the Pharaoh table; as you entered it you saw, on a panel over the chimney, a cornucopia, exuberantly filled with flowers of the richest colors; over the door, as you went out, another represented itself, shrunk, reversed, and emptied.

From these apartments we were conducted up to a ball-room, decorated in a light elegant style of painting. The ground was a pale blue, panelled with a small gold bead, and in the interior filled with dropping festoons of flowers in their natural colors. Below the surbase the ground was of rose-pink, with drapery festooned in blue. These decorations were heightened by eighty-five mirrors, decked with rose-





## PARTICULARS OF THE MISCHIANZA.

pink silk ribands, and artificial flowers; and in the intermediate spaces were thirty-four branches with wax-lights, ornamented in a similar manner.

On the same floor were four drawing-rooms, with side-boards of refreshments, decorated and lighted in the same style and taste as the ball-room. The ball was opened by the knights and their ladies; and the dances continued till ten o'clock, when the windows were thrown open, and a magnificent bouquet of rockets began the fire-work. These were planned by Capt. Montresor, the chief engineer, and consisted of twenty different exhibitions, displayed under his direction with the happiest success, and in the highest style of beauty. Towards the conclusion, the interior part of the triumphal arch was illuminated, amidst an uninterrupted flight of rockets and bursting of balloons. The military trophies on each side assumed a variety of transparent colors. The shell and flaming heart on the wings set forth Chinese fountains, succeeded by fire-pots. Fame appeared at top, spangled with stars, and from her trumpet blowing the following device in letters of light: *Ves Lauriers sont immortels*.—A sauteur of rockets, bursting from the pediment, concluded the *feu d'artifice*.

At twelve, supper was announced, and large folding-doors, hitherto artfully concealed, being suddenly thrown open, discovered a magnificent saloon of two hundred and ten feet by forty, and twenty-two feet in height, with three alcoves on each side, which served for side-boards. The ceiling was the segment of a circle, and the sides were painted of a light straw-color, with vine leaves and festoon flowers, some in a bright, some in a darkish green. Fifty-six large pier-glasses, ornamented with green silk artificial flowers and ribands; one hundred branches with three lights in each, trimmed in the same manner as the mirrors; eighteen lustres, each with twenty-four lights, suspended from the ceiling, and ornamented as the branches; three hundred wax tapers disposed along the supper tables; four hundred and thirty covers, twelve hundred dishes; twenty four black slaves, in oriental dresses, with silver collars and bracelets, ranged in two lines, and bending to the ground as the general and admiral approached the saloon: all these, forming together the most brilliant assemblage of gay objects, and appearing at once as we entered by an easy descent, exhibited a *coup d'œil* beyond description magnificent.

Towards the end of supper, the Herald of the Blended Rose, in his habit of ceremony, attended by his trumpets, entered the saloon, and proclaimed the king's health, the queen, and royal family, the army and navy, with their respective commanders, the knights and their ladies, the ladies in general: each of these toasts was followed by a flourish of music. After supper we returned to the ball-room, and continued to dance till four o'clock.

Such, my dear friend, is the description, though a very faint one, of the most splendid entertainment, I believe, ever given by an army to their general. But what must be more grateful to Sir W. Howe, is the spirit and motives from which it was given. He goes from this place to-morrow; but, as I understand he means to stay a day or two with his brother on board the Eagle at Billingsport, I shall not seal this letter till I see him depart from Philadelphia.

*Sunday 21th.* I am just returned from conducting our beloved general to the waterside, and have seen him receive a more flattering testimony of the love and attachment of his army than all the pomp and splendor of the *Mischianza* could convey to him. I have seen the most gallant of our officers, and those whom I least suspected of giving such instances of their affection, shed tears while they bid him farewell. The gallant and affectionate general of the Hessians, Knyphausen, was so moved, that he could not finish a compliment he began to pay him in his own name and that of his officers who attended him. Sir Henry Clinton attended him to the wharf, where Lord Howe received him into his barge, and they are both gone down to Billingsport. On my return, I saw nothing but dejected countenances. Adieu, &c.



(From the *Columbian Magazine* for December, 1786.)

## FITCH'S OWN ACCOUNT OF HIS STEAMBOAT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLUMBIAN MAGAZINE.

*Philadelphia, Dec. 8th, 1786.*

SIR—

THE reason of my so long deferring to give you a description of the *Steamboat*,<sup>\*</sup> has been in some measure owing to the complication of the works, and an apprehension that a number of drafts would be necessary, in order to show the powers of the machine as clearly as you would wish. But as I have not been able to hand you herewith such drafts, I can only give you the general principles.—It is, in several parts, similar to the late improved steam-engines in Europe, though there are some alterations—our cylinder is to be horizontal, and the steam to work with equal force at each end. The mode by which we obtain (what I take the liberty of terming) a vacuum is, we believe, entirely new; as is also the method of letting the water into it, and throwing it off against the atmosphere without any friction. It is expected that the engine, which is a twelve inch cylinder, will move with a clear force of eleven or twelve cwt. after the frictions are deducted; this force is to act against a wheel of eighteen inches diameter. The piston is to move about three feet, and each vibration of the piston gives the axis about forty evolutions. Each evolution of the axis moves twelve oars or paddles five and a half feet, (which work perpendicularly, and are represented by the stroke of the paddle of a canoe.) As six of the paddles are raised from the water, six more are entered, and the two sets of paddles make their strokes of about eleven feet in each evolution. The cranks of the axis act upon the paddles about one third of their length from the lower end, on which part of the oar the whole force of the axis is applied. Our engine is placed in the boat about one-third from the stem, and both the action and reaction turn the wheel the same way.

With the most perfect respect,

Sir, I beg leave to subscribe myself your very humble servant,

JOHN FITCH.

(From Fitch's MSS. Autobiography in the Philadelphia Library.)

I HAVE given my country a most valuable discovery on the 30th of August, 1783, for which I have received no compensation, and I doubt not but common justice will induce them to do something for me, especially when they can do it for the benefit of our empire. Another inducement which urges me to pursue this scheme is, to put it out of the power of future generations to make excuses for the present one—and if I should die in penury, want, wretchedness, and rags, that my country may have no excuse, and that I may have the secret pleasure in the contemplation of receiving real pity from future generations.

All which is hereby submitted to the Company, by

JOHN FITCH.

25th Decem. 1790.

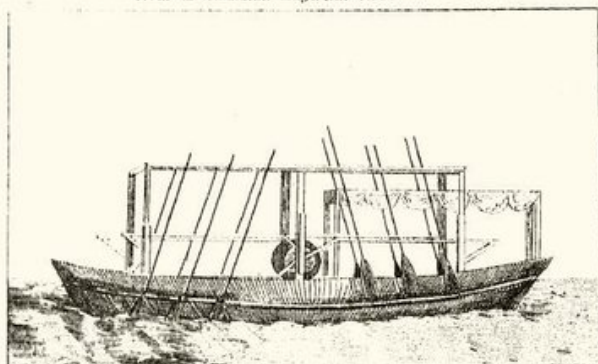
\* See the annexed plate.

*Enlarge*





From the Columbian Magazine 1788



Plan of Mr Fitch's Steamboat

I have given my Country a most valuable Discovery on the 30 of August 1785, for which I have received no Compensation, and I doubt not but common justice will induce them to do something for me, especially when they can do it for the benefit of our Empire.

Another inducement which urges me to persevere is, to put it out of the power of future Generations to make excuses for the present one — And if I should die in penury, want, wretchedness and Thags, that my Country may have no cause; and that I may have the secret phas are, on the Contingitation of receiving real pretty from future Generations.

all which is humbly submitted to the Company

By

25 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1790

John Fitch

From Fitch's M.S.S. Autobiography in the Philad<sup>a</sup> Library.

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